



## **GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMM.**

**Public Hearing Feb. 22, 2013**

### **Testimony in OPPOSITION of Raised Bill No. HB 6100**

#### **AAC The Regional Consolidation of Certain Functions of Election Administration.**

Senator Musto, Representative Jutila and Members of the GAE Committee, My name is George Cody, Registrar of voters in New Canaan and vice-chair of the ROVAC Legislative Committee. I would like to add my voice to the cautionary testimony you have received from other Registrars regarding this proposal.

This bill strikes at the very fabric of Connecticut's long tradition of election administration by removing the long held practice of two Registrars, one of each party, in each of Connecticut's towns and cities. No two towns in the state are the same, and local control of election administration has assured the public, political parties and candidates of elections tailored to each community, responsive to their particular needs.

As Election Administration has evolved in the past decade, Connecticut was one of the first states to institute a reliable statewide voter registry list, primarily because we had local election officials in every town maintaining their lists. This was paramount on the minds of the Legislature when they approved the statewide election management system, ConnVerse. While there has been much discussion of the Florida debacle of 2000, one of the obvious problems was their unfortunate reliance on County election administration and upon poorly constructed and maintained voter lists.

Connecticut should continue to rely on their local election official's ability to best know their municipalities voting patterns, the selection of polling places and Registrars ability to work with local officials in their operation, in the selection and training of polling place workers, in reacting to election day problems, and in meeting the needs of local candidates in Municipal years.

The regionalization of election administration would create more problems than the bill attempts to address. There have indeed been local problems, and there are a number of bills under consideration proposed by Legislators, the Secretary of the State, and by ROVAC which propose better and more standardized training, and improved management and reporting to and by the Secretary Of The State. For these reasons, I would ask the Committee to reconsider this bill. Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any Questions you may have.